

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01 /025 W

----- 090329

R 080858Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3428

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 HONG KONG 0263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PREP (WOLFF, LESTER)

SUBJ: VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF

1. SUMMARY. CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF AND J. HERBERT BURKE VISITED HONG KONG JANUARY 4-7. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS VISITS BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF, THIS VISIT WAS WARMED BY WOLFF'S PUBLIC APPROBATION OF HK NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND A PRIVATE PERSONAL APOLOGY TO HK NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER FOR PREVIOUS UNDERESTIMATE OF THESE EFFORTS. WHILE INDICATING AWARENESS OF HIS PROJECTED GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONGRESS THE NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN STAYED ON THE FAMILIAR GROUND OF NARCOTICS PROBLEMS. IN HK. CONGRESSMEN BURKE AND MORGAN MURPHY (WHO JOINED THE GROUP JANUARY 6) PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS FUNCTIONS, BUT REMAINED STRICTLY IN THE BACKGROUND. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESSMEN WOLFF AND BURKE, TOGETHER WITH MRS. BURKE, ARRIVED SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, FROM TAIPEI. JANUARY 5 THEY VISITED MACAU AND DINED WITH CONSUL GENERAL CROSS. MORNING OF JANUARY 6 WAS DEVOTED TO BRIEFINGS BY THE CONGEN NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER.

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COMMITTEE AND THE HKG NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER.

AFTER LUNCH WITH THE DPO, THE PARTY SURVEYED HK HARBOR AND AIRPORT NARCOTICS' CONTROL FACILITIES. THERE WAS NO PROGRAM ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR BANGKOK.

3. FIRST INDICATIONS THAT CONGRESSMAN WOLFF'S CURRENT VISIT HAD A DIFFERENT TONE THAN ITS PREDECESSORS WAS GIVEN DURING LOCAL TELEVISION INTERVIEWS AT THE AIRPORT AFTER HIS ARRIVAL. IN INTERVIEW, WHICH LATER APPEARED ON EVENING NEWS TELECAST, CONGRESSMAN WARMLY PRAISED HKG'S APPARENT PROGRESS IN NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION AND ITS COOPERATION IN HKG/ US JOINT EFFORT TO REDUCE VOLUME OF NARCOTICS TRAFFIC THROUGH HK. REP. BURKE DECLINED AN INVITATION TO APPEAR JOINTLY WITH REP . WOLFF FOR INTERVIEW.

4. SUNDAY TRIP BY TWO CONGRESSMAN TO MACAU WAS ADMITTEDLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY THAT MACAU WAS AN AVENUE THROUGH WHICH NARCOTICS FROM PRC ARE ENTERING WORLD MARKETS. WOLFF SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED (FROM AN UNDISCLOSED SOURCE) INFORMATION TO THIS EFFECT DURING BRIEFINGS IN TAIPEI. ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY EVIDENCE IN MACAU, HE RETURNED TO HONG KONG APPARENTLY STILL BELIEVING THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THE PORTUGUESE COLONY WAS A TRANSIT POINT FOR ALLEGED MAINLAND NARCOTICS PRODUCTION.

5. INITIAL UNCLASSIFIED PORTIONS OF BRIEFING BY CONGEN NARCOTICS COMMITTEE AND HK NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER WERE COVERED BY CBS TV NEWSMAN PALER WILLIAMS, TRAVELING WITH THE PARTY, WHO MAY USE THE FOOTAGE FOR CBS PROGRAM IN THE US ENTITLED "60 MINUTES". DURING LATER CLASSIFIED PORTION OF BRIEFING BY CONGEN NARCOTICS COMMITTEE, CONGRESSMAN LISTENED TO REVIEW OF HKG SUCCESSES IN DRUG ENFORCEMENT, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION. HE PRESSED FOR AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN HKG AND LOCAL US DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (DEA) OFFICE WAS THE RESULT OF HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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NEEDLING HKG ON PREVIOUS VISITS. HOWEVER, HE APPEARED SATISFIED WITH A STATEMENT THAT COOPERATION HAD BEEN INCREASING OVER PERIOD OF CONGRESSMAN'S VISITS.

6. CONGEN BRIEFERS WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANY SUPPORT FOR WOLFF'S CONTENTION THAT THERE MUST BE SOME EXPORT OF NARCOTICS FROM MAINLAND CHINA. IT WAS EVEN SUGGESTED THAT IN THE CONFUSING SITUATION ALONG

THE CHINESE BORDER OF YUNNAN PROVINCE THERE WAS
POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRC MIGHT BE A NEW IMPORTER OF
NARCOTICS FOR LOCAL COMSUMPTION IN THAT AREA.

7. BRIEFING BY THE HKG NARCOTICS COMMISSIONER COVERED
THE SAME GENERAL AREAS AS THE CONGEN COMMITTEE'S BRIEFING.
CONGRESSMAN WOLFF WAS PERFECTLY WILLING TO ACCEPT
THAT HKG AURHROITIES WERE DOING ALL THAT THEY COULD
AND DOING IT EXTREMELY WELL. IT WAS DURING THIS BRIEF-
ING THAT WOLFF TURNED TO COMMISSIONER NORMAN ROLPH
AND SAID THAT HE WISHED PERSONALLY TO APOLOGIZE FOR
HAVING STATED ON PREVIOUS VISITS THAT HE DID NOT THINK
THE HKG HAD MADE A SUFFICIENT EFFORT TO HALT SHIPMENT
OF DRUGS INTO THE COLONY.

8. ROLPH MADE HIS NOW FAMILIAR PLEA FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES TO REEXAMINE ALL POSSI-
BILITIES FOR REDUCING PROCUCTION IN THE "GOLDEN TRAIANGLE"
AREA OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THE
DIFFICULTY OF ASSURING PARTICIPATION BY THE BURMESE
GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO INDICATED A HOPE THAT THERE MIGHT
NOW BE A POSSIBILITY OF INTERESTING THE PRC IN SOME FORM
OF PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON NARCOTICS
PROBLEMS.

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 RSC-01 /025 W

----- 091167

R 080858Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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9. DURING LUNCHEON, THE CONGRESSMAN MET SIR ALBERT

RODRIGUES, CHAIRMAN OF THE HK ACTION COMMITTEE AGAINST NARCOTICS, AND DR. ROBERT NEWMAN, FORMER HED OF NEW YORK CITY'S METHADONE PROGRAM WHO IS ADVISING THE HKG ON MEDICAL ASPECTS OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. RODRIGUES ASSURED THE CONGRESSMAN THAT REDUCTION OF NARCOTICS USE AND TRAFFICKING WAS AN EFFORT FULLY SUPPORTED BY ALL ELEMENTS OF THE HK COMMUNITY. NEWSMAN SAID THAT HE WAS STUDYING THE LOCAL SITUATION WITH A VIEW TO FORMULATION RECOMMENDATIONS ON PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION IN WHICH THE USG MIGHT BE ASKED TO TAKE A PART.

10. LOCAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE WOLFF VISIT WAS TYPIFIED BY AN ARTICLE IN THE "SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST" WHICH REFLECTED THE CONGRESSMAN'S ENTHOUSIASM FOR THE IMPROVED LOCAL SITUATION AND WAS HEADLINED "CONGRESSMAN CHANGES TUNE".

11. WHILE PRIVATELY EVINCING PRIDE IN HIS PROBABLE ASSIGNMENT TO BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE CONGRESS, THROUGHOUT HIS VISIT TO THE COLONY THE CONGRESSMAN STAYED ON THE FAMILIAR GROUND OF THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. HE DID NOT ASK FOR BRIEFING ON THE PRC OR US/PRC RELATIONS.
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HE DID, HOWEVER, TALK TO THE CONSUL GENERAL FOR NEARLY AN HOUR ON THESE SUBJECTS AND INDICATED HE WOULD BE SPENDING CONSIDERABLE TIME ON CHINA WHEN HE ASSUMED THE POSITION OF SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. HE ALSO TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF COMMISSIONER ROLPH'S SUGGESTION FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIMITATION OF NARCOTICS PRODUCTION IN SEA AND OF POSSIBLE PRC INTEREST IN NARCOTICS COOPERATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK00263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750007-0548
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750170/aaaacjkh.tel
Line Count: 208
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <12 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF CODEL WOLFF
TAGS: OREP, (WOLFF, LESTER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006